



## ARMED ROBBERY

It is important for business owners, managers, and employees to be aware of the crime risks inherent in their particular industry. This information should help.

One of the greatest fears of both the employer and employee of any business is being the victim of an armed robbery. Needless to say, there is nothing pleasant about having one's life threatened by a stranger with a weapon. Certainly these situations are to be avoided if at all possible. How can you stop an armed robbery? It is most difficult, dangerous, and inadvisable after it is in progress. The key is to know as much as possible about the armed robber and how he operates and therefore prevent the crime.

### Who is the Robber?

1. An armed robber is usually a male in his late teens or twenties. There are exceptions- little old ladies have robbed banks.
2. He is often not from your neighborhood.
3. He has probably watched your business and knows your routines.
4. He has probably "graduated" from lesser crimes.
5. He may have inside information about your operation from former (or current) employees.
6. He considers himself among the elite of the criminal world.

### How they Operate

1. He looks for a place likely to have significant cash on hand.
2. He looks for places with obstructed views. It hides his approach and prevents anyone outside from observing the robbery.
3. He looks for places with easy escape routes.
4. He tries to get in and out quickly (20 seconds to 1 minute).
5. He intimidates the victim by being loud and profane.
6. He usually grabs only the bills from the register.
7. He leaves by the same route he entered.

### Things to Watch For

1. Someone hanging around the area for inappropriate lengths of time.
2. Someone who enters the business but doesn't buy.
3. Someone who looks at or asks questions about the security system.
4. Someone with flimsy answers when questioned. (He wants a drink of water or looking for Joe who doesn't work there)
5. Cars cruising the area repeatedly.
6. Parked cars with engines running and/or driver waiting.

### CALL POLICE

If you notice any of these indicators or anything else you deem suspicious.

**843-577-7434**

## Lower Your Risk

These tips are designed more to protect employees and customers, less to protect the actual money. They deter the Robber by increasing his risk and reducing his reward, therefore protecting employees from a violent incident.

1. Keep area well Lit
  2. Keep Views Clear – Raise or Lower Signs
  3. Trim Shrubbery down to 3 feet
  4. Limit cash on hand – Below \$50 if possible
- And ANNOUNCE THIS ON SIGNS
5. Anything over \$50 in TIME DELAY SAFE also Announced on Signs
  6. Delivery Drivers: "drop" their money after each run, into the Time Delay Safe. Place a Decal "No More than \$20" on delivery cars.
  7. Sort receipts/tips money after hours behind locked doors.
  8. Two Person Rules for trash and outside cleanup details
  9. Employee Breaks out FRONT
  10. Lock Doors early, 7:30- 8pm, and open doors only for known customers
  11. Solid/Iron-Bar rear door (within Fire Code)
  12. Use Your Bank, make deposits in daylight. Don't be predictable on bank runs: alter time, route, personnel, and carrying containers
  13. Request police escort on bank runs
  14. VIDEO Cameras, recorded, with a visible monitor to prove they work.
  15. Post signs: "NO HATS, NO HOODS, NO SUNGLASSES"

## ALARM SYSTEMS:

1. Make sure everyone knows how to use the alarm correctly to reduce False Alarms. Do not use the armed robbery alarm to report minor crimes.
2. Alarm switches should be placed in more than one location, including the cooler.
3. \*\*\*A hidden phone in the cooler would be helpful as robbers often place employees there.

The Charleston Police Crime Prevention Office is available to perform an on-site security survey of your business, also for presentations to staff and/or management regarding prevention measures as well as addressing the issues of shoplifting, employee theft and other business related crimes. For information and scheduling call the Charleston Police Crime Prevention Office at 769-7407 during business hours.

**What if a Robbery Happens Anyway?**

### If Your Business is Robbed

1. Don't resist unless your life is at stake!
2. Try to remain calm.
3. Don't take risks.
4. Alert the robber to anything that might alarm him (ie: another employee or a bell rings when the cash register is opened)
5. Note as many things as possible about the robber.
6. Keep your movements slow and deliberate.
7. Let the robber know what moves you are going to make.
8. Don't reach for the phone.
9. Note anything that the robber touches.

### After the Robber Leaves

1. Activate Robbery Alarm.
2. Lock the Door
3. Call the Police (911).
4. Stay on the line with the dispatcher until an officer arrives.
5. Give a description of the robber to the dispatcher: Physical characteristics first (Race, Sex, Height/Build, Age), then clothing. Describe Vehicle ( Color & Type, Make, Model, Tag if available.)
6. Give the dispatcher the method and direction of flight. (North on Meeting Street rather than up Meeting Street.)
7. Have all victims make written notes. Do not discuss the robbery amongst yourselves until this is done. People remember different points.
8. Don't touch or disturb anything the robber has touched or handled. Wait for Crime Scene.

## PREVENT ARMED ROBBERY TO YOUR BUSINESS

